

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 04658 161032Z

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 PM-07 AID-20 DRC-01

AF-10 /108 W

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R 161009Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7443

USIA WASHDC

INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB

UNCLAS BELGRADE 4658

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS/ PFOR, OGEN, YO, XF

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT: MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT

1. YUGOSLAV MEDIA WEEKEND OCT 13-15 DOMINATED BY MID-EAST WAR, WITH CONTINUED OPTIMISTIC FORECASTS OF ULTIMATE ARAB VICTORY. PROMINENT COVERAGE GIVEN ALLEGED ISRAELI BOMBING OF CIVILIAN TARGETS, REACTIONS FROM WORLD CAPITALS TO CONFLICT, AND REPORT OF U.S. AID TO ISRAEL.

2. WITHIN OCT 15 MULTI-PAGE MID-EAST COVERAGE, BELGRADE DAILIES BORBA AND POLITIKA INCLUDE BRIEF ITEM (WASHINGTON UPI) THAT US READY TO SHIP 45 "PHANTOMS" TO ISRAEL. OCT 13 POLITIKA CITES REPORTS (UPS) FROM MADRID NEWSPAPER YA THAT 150 U.S. PILOTS, "VIETNAM VETERANS," PASSED THROUGH MADRID ON WAY TO ISRAEL. SAME ITEM CARRIED AS "UNCONFIRMED REPORT" ON BELGRADE TV EARLY NEWS. OTHER SPECULATIVE REPORTS FROM ARAB SOURCES APPEAR IN OCT 14 TANJUG BULLETIN, INCLUDING TANJUG DAMASCUS REPORT, NOT CARRIED IN BELGRADE PRESS, THAT ISRAEL USING UNMARKED WARPLANES AGAINST SYRIA "PILOTED BY CREWS WHO PARTICIPATED IN FIGHTING VIETNAMESE LIBERATION FORCES." FROM BEIRUT , TANJUG CITES MILITARY AID DELIVERED TO ISRAEL BY U.S. SIXTH FLEET UNITS.

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3. BELGRADE PRESS OCT 13 INCLUDED COVERAGE KISSINGER PRESS

CONFERENCE. POLITIKA CARRIED BRIEF (PAGE 2) REPORT,
"KISSINGER: USSR AND US HAVE SHOWN MODERATION;" BORBA (PAGE
3), ALSO BRIEF "KISSINGER RECOMMENDS RESTRAINT OF BIG
POWERS."

4. EDITS CONTINUE IN SAME BITTER ANTI-ISRAEL TONE WITH FULL
SUPPORT OF ARAB CAUSE. FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMENTATOR
ALEKSANDAR NENADOVIC IN OCT 14 POLITIKA OFFERS GENERAL VIEW
THAT MID-EAST WAR CAN UNDERMINE BASIS OF US-USSR DETENTE
AND THUS HAS EVEN BROADER POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES.

5. "RED" TANJUG OCT 14 CARRIED CATEGORICAL DENIAL BY PRESS
SPOKESMAN MCCLOSKEY THAT US FORCES HAVE BEEN
INVOLVED IN MID-EAST CONFLICT.
TOON

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